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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/920,827

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Jai Chul Kim

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/19/2006

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/920,827	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM, JAI CHUL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thjuan P. Knowlin	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/05/06 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 32-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curtis et al (US 6,594,472), in view of Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).
3. In regards to claims 32, 36, 37, and 39, Curtis discloses a mobile telephone (See Fig. 1 and radiotelephone 1), comprising: a telephone body (See Fig. 1); a button portion provided on the telephone body (See Fig. 1, keymat 5, and upper cover 11); a pair of grooves extending along sides of the telephone body adjacent the button portion (See Fig. 2); and a plurality of interchangeable button covers, each having a frame

configured to mate with the pair of grooves (See col. 2 lines 33-38 and col. 3 lines 23-30), wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers include a bar type button cover (See Fig. 1 and front cover 2). Curtis, however, does not disclose wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers include a flip type button cover and a slide type button cover, and wherein the button covers are just for covering the button portion. Slipy, however, discloses wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers (e.g., faceplates) include a bar type button cover (See Fig. 1 and faceplate 104) and a flip type button cover (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418) (therefore, it would have been obvious to include a slide type button cover), and wherein the button covers are just for covering the button portion (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these features as part of the mobile telephone, as a way of providing a distinctive user interface appearance for the telephone, thereby giving the telephone one distinctive appearance, of a plurality of distinctive telephone appearances, by allowing the user to change the faceplate/cover and choose another distinctive appearance at a later time.

4. In regards to claims 33 and 38, Curtis discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers each further comprise a pair of projections configured to mate with corresponding fixing recesses disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves (See Fig. 2, col. 2 lines 33-38, and col. 3 lines 23-30).

5. In regards to claim 34, Curtis discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the bar type button cover includes a button cover attached to or integral with the frame and

having a keypad configured to cover and interlock with key buttons of the button portion (See Fig. 2 and front cover 2).

6. In regards to claim 35, Curtis discloses all of claim 35 limitations, except the mobile telephone, wherein the flip type button cover includes a button cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion. Sliply, however, does disclose the mobile telephone, wherein the flip type button cover includes a button cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418).

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hodsdon et al (US 5,146,615) teach interchangeable control panels and keypads for radio transceivers and related process.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

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10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thjuan P. Knowlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thjuan" being more prominent and stylized.

THJUAN P. KNOWLIN  
PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600